



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

### Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

### About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>

US  
13159  
10.10

Berlin, Mass. - Transcript of the Records  
of the First Parish - 1848

US 13159.10.10



Harvard College Library

FROM

*Rev. Joseph Allen*

out 1848.  
0  
A

**TRANSCRIPT OF THE RECORDS**

**OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF**

**THE FIRST PARISH**

**AND**

**CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY,**

**IN BERLIN,**

**FROM**

**THE FIRST COMMENCEMENT OF A TRIAL FOR A UNION WITH THE EVANGELICAL SOCIETY, IN SAID TOWN, TO THE FINAL CONSUMMATION OF THE SAME, AND THE SETTLEMENT OF THE**

**REV. HENRY ADAMS,**

**THEIR PRESENT PASTOR.**

---

**BY ASA SAWYER.**

---

**LANCASTER:**  
**PRINTED BY BALLARD & MESSINGER.**

**1848.**

MS 13159.10.10

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY

1873, July 17.

Wm. G. Allen,  
Rev. John Allen,  
of Northboro.  
(p. 26. 1811.)

## INTRODUCTION.

As there have been reports circulated that there was intrigue and deception used in the union of the two Parishes in Berlin, and especially by the Committee chosen to give the Rev. Mr. ADAMS a call to become their Pastor, and also that the Orthodox — so called — got the meeting house by “underhanded management” on their part, together with many other reports of the same nature, (which the subscriber believes to be utterly groundless and false,) he has deemed it not only necessary, but a duty which he owes to truth and society at large, to publish to the world the proceedings of the First Parish and Congregational Society in Berlin, through the whole scene, that they may be able to judge of the truth or falsity of the same; and it is hoped it will be candidly examined by a candid public.

ASA SAWYER.

*Berlin, January 16th, 1848.*

I will here state that I have transcribed no Articles mentioned in the succeeding pages except those that have a direct bearing on the union of the two Parishes and the call and settlement of our present Pastor, and all those that have such a bearing I have transcribed.

A. S.

12

13

14

15

## TRANSCRIPT OF THE RECORDS.

At the annual meeting of the First Parish and Congregational Society in Berlin, March, 1843, the 6th Article in the Warrant was taken up and acted upon. It reads thus: "Article 6th. To see what method the Parish will take to supply their pulpit the ensuing year." On motion of Daniel Bartlett, voted, That a Committee of three be chosen for a Pulpit Committee. Chose Jonathan D. Merriam, Asa Sawyer, Paul Brigham, Pulpit Committee. The following communication was then received:

"At a meeting of the Evangelical Congregational Society of Berlin, held March 27th, 1843, the following vote was unanimously passed: That this Society propose to the First Congregational Society in Berlin, that they choose, if they think it advisable, a Committee of three, to act in concert with a Committee of an equal number, to be chosen by this Society, to procure a supply for the pulpit\* for a few Sabbaths, and wait the development of Providence for further light.

JOSEPH PARK, *Mod'r.*

O. B. SAWYER, *Clerk.*"

The foregoing communication having been read; on motion of John Bartlett, it was voted, That the Pulpit Committee be instructed to act in conformity with the foregoing communication.

On motion of Jonathan D. Merriam, it was voted, That the Committee do not expend more than fifty dollars for the supply of the pulpit before a Parish meeting is called.

On motion of Amory Carter, it was voted, That a copy of the above proceedings be sent to the Evangelical Congregational Society of Berlin.†

\* The pulpit in the meeting house of the First Parish is here meant.

† The above proceedings were accordingly transmitted to said Society according to



At a meeting, legally warned and holden at the Town House, in Berlin, on Monday, the 29th day of May, 1843, the following action was had on the several Articles hereafter mentioned, viz: Article 2d. To see if the Parish will take any measures to obtain or admit new members, according to law. And on motion of Silas Fairbank, it was voted, That a Committee of five be chosen, one person from each school district, to circulate the Book of Membership of the First Parish and invite the members of the Evangelical Society and such others as they may think fit, to become members. Then chose J. Bullard, Josiah Babcock, Amory Carter, Daniel Bartlett, and Benjamin F. Spafford. Article 3d. To see if the Parish will excuse any part or all of their Pulpit Committee, and choose others in their stead. On motion of Jesse Jewett, it was voted, That Jonathan D. Merriam be excused from serving on the Pulpit Committee. Then voted to reconsider the above vote,—Jonathan D. Merriam considers himself still a member of the Pulpit Committee. Article 4th. To see if the Parish will take any method for the future supply of their pulpit, or give their Committee any further instructions respecting the same.

On motion of Asa Sawyer, Voted to pass over this Article for the present. Article 5th. To hear and act on any proposal from the Evangelical Society that may be made by them for a union of the two Parishes or Societies, for further worshipping together. On motion of Z. Johnson, Voted to pass over this Article and turn to the 4th Article. And on motion of Z. Johnson it was voted, That the Pulpit Committee confer with the Committee of the Evangelical Society, and procure Mr. Bucklin or some other man, to supply the pulpit, as the majority of the Committee shall see fit, until the fall, or until the Pulpit Committee shall request a Parish meeting to be called. The proceedings of the meeting were then read, and on motion, said meeting was dissolved.

At a meeting of the First Parish, legally warned, and held at the Town House, in Berlin, on Tuesday, the 13th day of June, 1843, the following was one of the Articles to be acted upon, viz: Article 2d. To receive and act upon any communications or proposals from the Evangelical Congregational Society which they

the vote, who then chose a Committee of three to act in concert with the Committee of the First Parish. Subsequently the Committees met and their deliberation resulted in employing the Rev. Henry Herrick, of New Haven, Conn.

state is desired by them to be communicated to the First Parish respecting the union of the Parishes ; or, still continuing to worship together ; or to act on any thing concerning the further supply of their pulpit. Under this Article the following communication was received from the Evangelical Congregational Society :

*To the First Parish in Berlin :*

It will be borne in mind by the Parish addressed in this communication, that some weeks since, a proposal was made to them which resulted in obtaining the Rev. H. Herrick, who has since been laboring with us in the ministry. As both Societies were then listening to the same essential doctrines of the Cross, it was thought desirable that both should sit together and worship in the house where our fathers worshipped, and where that man of God, who now sleeps in the dust, so long proclaimed the same great doctrines to a united and happy people. Having listened to Mr. Herrick with much satisfaction, and believing that it was under the auspices of a wise and kind Providence that he was sent among us, we feel constrained at this juncture to propose that we now unite in negotiating with him for one year, either from the time of his commencing his labors among us, or from the present time, as it may be the most agreeable to you. It is probable, he may be obtained a year for five hundred dollars. Of this we are willing, if our proposals are accepted, to pay three hundred dollars. We believe there are few men so conciliating, and so judicious, as Mr. Herrick, and we see no objections that can be brought against him that would be likely to be removed by exchanging him for another man. Exceedingly reluctant should we be to retire again to our previous place of worship, apart from those friends with whom we have recently and so pleasantly listened to the truths of salvation. We feel, however, that it is our duty to make those sacrifices, necessary to perpetuate his labors among us, rather than suffer them now to close.

In behalf of the Evangelical Congregational Society of Berlin.

O. B. SAWYER, *Clerk.*

*Berlin, June 13th, 1843.*

On motion of Asa Sawyer, Voted that the vote for the reception of the proposal be taken by yeas and nays. The vote was taken

and is as follows: five yeas, fifteen nays. On motion of Jonathan D. Merriam, it was voted, To inform the Evangelical Society that this Parish reject the communication this day received from them respecting their unitedly employing Mr. Herrick for one year as named in said communication, and they wish for no further correspondence at this time unless they can be permitted to hear liberal preaching one half of the time.\*

A large number of the members of the First Parish not feeling satisfied with the above vote, a written request, signed by several of them was presented to the Chairman of the Parish Committee to call another meeting forthwith. Accordingly the Committee issued a warrant, calling a meeting of the First Parish, July 1st, 1843, in which were inserted the following Articles, viz:

Article 2d. To make and receive a communication or communications, or proposals to and from the Evangelical Church and Society, respecting a union, or an agreement of the Societies to worship together, and of procuring a minister to supply the pulpit during the time of such union or agreement.

Article 3d. To see if the Parish will discharge their present Pulpit Committee from any further service, and choose a new one in their stead. At the meeting thus called under the 2d Article, on motion of Asa Sawyer, it was voted, That the following proposal be sent to the Evangelical Church and Society:

*To the Members of the Evangelical Church and Society:*

Gentlemen,—The members of the First Parish, and particularly the Church, respectfully ask of you whether if we unite with you in a minister and go to the same meeting, the Churches can be permitted to commune together. We think this is the first question to be settled in order to effect a union. [See Appendix.]

*Berlin, July 1st, 1843.*

On motion of Asa Sawyer, it was voted, That the following proposition be sent to the Evangelical Society.

The First Parish in Berlin, propose to the Evangelical Church and Society to worship in the large Meeting House, unitedly, until

\* It may be difficult to determine what kind of preaching was here meant, as many denominations claim to be liberal Christians; but subsequent developments have settled the question very satisfactorily as to the kind of preaching meant.

the first Sunday of January, 1844; and unitedly to employ three different candidates for the ministry, two months each, and wait for further developments of Providence, hoping that by that time a permanent union of the two Parishes may be effected. The Clergymen to be Evangelical; and it is proposed to employ the Rev. Mr. Adams, of Bolton, the two first months. The Clergymen to be hired by a Joint Committee. The First Parish to pay \$200 to the Evangelical \$300 — or as 2 to 3.

*Berlin, July 1st, 1843.*

On motion, it was voted to pass to Article 3d. On motion, it was voted to pass this Article over. And then the following communication was received.

*To the First Parish in Berlin:*

The Evangelical Congregational Society request the First Parish to choose a Committee of three, to meet a Committee of this Society forthwith, at Mr. Brides, or some other central place. If so, they will please give immediate notice.

E. HARTSHORN, *Clerk, pro tem.*

*Berlin, July 1st, 1843.*

Upon motion, voted, That a Committee of three be chosen to meet with the Committee of the Evangelical Society. Benjamin F. Spafford, Asa Sawyer and John Bartlett were chosen as this Committee.

The following communication was then received.

*To the First Parish in Berlin:*

The Evangelical Congregational Society had the following action upon the proposals sent them this P. M., viz: Voted, to accept the proposal, leaving the time of acceptance discretionary with their Committee.\* Also voted that the Society cannot act in relation to the other communication, as it is a matter confined to the action of the Church.

E. HARTSHORN, *Clerk, pro tem.*

Upon motion the meeting was dissolved.

\* Subsequently the Committee engaged the Rev. Mr. Adams to supply the pulpit two months.

The two Parishes having attended unitedly for several Sabbaths on the preaching of the Rev. Mr. Adams, were so well satisfied that it was thought expedient to call meetings in each Parish to see if a union could not be effected. Accordingly the Committee of the First Parish issued a Warrant, calling a meeting on the 26th day of August, 1843, in which were inserted the following Articles, viz: Article 2d. To see if the Parish will admit all, or any members of the Evangelical Congregational Society as members of the First Parish, if application be made.

Article 3d. If such union or admissions of members shall be made, then to see what method the Parish will take for the further supply of their pulpit.

The qualified voters of the First Parish, met according to the notice, and proceeded as follows. Under the 2d Article, the following proposal was received from the Evangelical Society, viz: Voted, that we express a willingness to unite with the First Congregational Society, as soon as practicable, and that we recommend, to members present, who feel prepared, after hearing the conditions upon which they may be admitted, to subscribe forthwith, that they may act with said Society. Voted, That the Clerk be directed to transmit the above vote to the members of said Society, now in Parish meeting assembled.

O. B. SAWYER, *Clerk.*

*Berlin, August 26th, 1843.*

On motion of Asa Sawyer, it was voted, That the First Parish admit all members of the Evangelical Society, as members of the First Parish, that may apply for such admittance, on condition of their signing their names to the book that now contains the names of said Parish.\* It is to be understood that Mr. Adams is to be the future minister of said First Parish, on condition of such union of

\* As it has been reported by certain individuals that there was intrigue and deception used by the Committee, (or some of them at least,) in the call and settlement of our present Pastor, and as it is believed by many that do not know the facts in the case, the mover of the above motion wishes here to state, that the following sentence contained in the above vote or motion, viz: "On condition of their signing their names to the book that now contains the names of the said Parish," was an amendment to the original motion as made by him, proposed by Jonathan D. Merriam, Esq., and was accepted as such by the mover; Mr. Merriam also voting for the union of the Parishes as the motion now stands. The vote on this Article was not doubted by any person at the time it was taken.

Parishes, provided his services can be obtained. On motion of Asa Sawyer, voted, That the Moderator appoint some one to transmit the foregoing vote to the Evangelical Society, whereupon Asa Sawyer was appointed.\*

Article 3d. On motion of Asa Sawyer, voted, That the former Parish Committee be authorized to employ the Rev. Mr. Adams, still longer.†

The proceedings of the meeting were read, and on motion, voted to dissolve the meeting.

On the 8th day of September, 1843, the Parish Committee issued a Warrant for a Parish meeting to be held on the 16th day of September, inst., in which was inserted the following Articles. Article 2d. To see if the Church in the First Parish, together with the Parish, will unite with the Evangelical Church in giving the Rev. Mr. Adams, now laboring with us in the gospel ministry, a call to become their Pastor.

The members of the Parish met according to notice and the following action was had on the 2d Article. On motion of John Bartlett it was moved, That the Congregational Church and Society concur with the Evangelical Church in giving the Rev. Mr. Adams a call to become their Pastor.

On motion of J. D. Merriam, it was moved, That the vote to concur be taken by yeas and nays. Accordingly the vote to concur with the Evangelical Church was taken, and stands as follows, — yeas 22, nays 9.

On motion of John Bartlett, voted, That a Committee of three be chosen to concur with a Committee of the Evangelical Society [Church] in giving the Rev. Mr. Adams a call. Asa Sawyer, Amory Carter, and John Bartlett, were chosen. After acting on the 3d Article, on motion of Z. Johnson, it was moved to take up the 2d Article. And, on motion of Z. Johnson it was moved that the Committee chosen under Article 2d, be instructed to offer the Rev. Mr. Adams five hundred dollars per annum.

\* After the transmission of the conditions of admittance, a majority of the members of the Evangelical Society, came forward and subscribed their names to the book according to the vote, and became members of the First Parish.

† The Committee then agreed with the Rev. Mr. Adams to supply the pulpit still longer.

On motion of J. D. Merriam, the vote was taken by yeas and nays, and stands as follows, — yeas 22, nays 8.

The proceedings of the meeting were read, and on motion, the meeting was dissolved.

On the 3d day of October, 1843, the Parish Committee issued a Warrant for a meeting of the members of the Parish, on the 10th of October, with the following Articles inserted therein.

Article 2d. To hear the Report of their Committee, chosen at a previous meeting, to act in concert with a Church Committee, in giving the Rev. Mr. Adams, of Bolton, a call to become their Pastor.

Article 3d. To make such arrangements as may then be deemed expedient in carrying into effect the Installation of their said Pastor elect, by giving their Committee further instructions, or by choosing a new Committee for that purpose. And on the 10th, the qualified voters of the Parish, met according to notice, and proceeded as follows. On the 2d Article a verbal report was made by Asa Sawyer, which on motion, was accepted. On Article 3d, voted to give the Committee power to make all necessary arrangements to instal Mr. Adams as their Pastor.

On motion, the meeting was dissolved.

Thus stand the Records of the First Parish in Berlin, respecting the union of the two Parishes, and the call and settlement of the Rev. Mr. Adams as Pastor of the First Parish.

Previous to the issuing of the Warrant for the annual meeting, which was holden at the Town House, in Berlin, Monday, the 29th of March, 1844, the Parish Committee had the following Articles presented to them for insertion by J. D. Merriam, Esq., signed by himself and eight other members of the Parish. The petitioners requesting said Articles to be inserted immediately after the Article for the choice of Moderator and Parish Officers, — which request was not complied with, — but they were inserted as the Committee thought proper, viz: as the 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th Articles.

10th. To see if the Parish will request the Rev. Mr. Adams to

exchange with all the regularly ordained ministers in all the adjoining towns without distinction of party.

11th. To see if the Parish will let individuals supply the pulpit in the meeting house with such preachers as said individuals may think proper ; if such individuals will defray the expense of such preachers when employed,—and they are not employed more than one Sunday in four through the year.

12th. To see if the Parish will make an attempt to raise Rev. Mr. Adams' salary, by subscription.

13th. To see if the Parish will abate such taxes and subscriptions as may be applied for.

At the holding of the meeting, after the choice of the Parish officers, a motion was made to take up the 10th Article, which motion the Parish refused to sustain, and before any farther business could be done there were about twenty certificates of withdrawals from the Parish laid on the Clerk's desk, every one of which having apparently, been prepared before the meeting.

The Society feeling that the time for treating with Mr. Adams, in respect to his exchanges, was before his Installation, "Voted to pass over" the 10th Article,—and feeling that they had rather have a voice in the choice of their preacher than to leave it to nine men to choose him for a quarter of the time,— "Voted, not to comply" with the request contained in Article 11th. It was also "voted to pass over" Article 12th.

The foregoing is a record of the first Parish meeting after the settlement of Mr. Adams. The public can judge what the petitioners wished to gain by attempting to raise the salary of the regular minister by *subscription*, while at the same time they wished to bring in a preacher of their own, a quarter of the time, whose services they were to pay for ; they can also judge whether it was proper to bring up this matter in respect to exchanges, *after* Mr. Adams' settlement, while nothing was said to him concerning it *before*, as will be seen by his Certificate in the Appendix ; and they can judge whether those who filed in their Certificates on the occasion of this meeting were "driven away from their meeting house by the Orthodox," as it is frequently asserted, or whether they left on their own choice as the "Orthodox" did some years before.



## APPENDIX.

As the Joint Committee chosen by the Parish and the Evangelical Church to give the call to the Rev. Henry Adams, to become their Pastor, have been accused of using *intrigue and deception* in their management of the same, (and especially the transcriber of the foregoing Records,) he deems it necessary to publish the following "Call," together with some other facts that took place within the time of the annual meeting of 1843, and the meeting of the 10th of October, following.

"*Dear Sir:*—It is our happy privilege to inform you that the Evangelical Church of Berlin have voted unanimously to give you a call to settle with them in the Gospel ministry and become their Pastor, and that the Church connected with the First Parish together with the Parish, have voted to concur with them in your call. This concurrence has been we think—considering our peculiar circumstances—quite as cordial and as general as we have ever anticipated,—yea, more. When we look back upon the past and view the auspicious providences that have favored our efforts, we distinctly recognize the hand of God, and trust that this solicitation to you to become our minister, will be perceived by you to be in perfect harmony with His providences, who called you to your work and led you amongst us. The Parish voted to pay you five hundred dollars, annually, for your support, and we are authorized by individuals to say to you, that you may expect one hundred more, by voluntary contribution. Desiring that you may have light from above to direct you in your deliberations, and assuring you of our confidence and respect, we submit the subject for your decision, and await your answer.

ASA SAWYER,	}	<i>Committee</i>	JOSEPH PARK,	}	<i>Church</i>
AMORY CARTER,		<i>for the</i>	THOMAS BRIGHAM,		<i>Committee.</i>
JOHN BARTLETT,		<i>Parish.</i>	JOSIAH BRIDE,		

After hearing the Rev. Mr. Adams a few Sabbaths, the following was drawn up by the Chairman of the Parish Committee for the purpose of ascertaining the minds of the members of both Parishes respecting their union and inviting the Rev. Mr. Adams

to become their Pastor. It was circulated and was signed by 47 male members of both Parishes and 36 ladies. This was done before any action was had in the Society respecting the call.

"We, the undersigned, members of the First Congregational and the Evangelical Societies, in Berlin, being anxious to perpetuate the public worship of Almighty God among us and our children, within said town, do hereby signify our willingness to unite ourselves into one Society or Parish, as follows: 1st. The First Congregational Society do agree to receive the Rev. Mr. Adams, of Bolton, (now laboring among us in the ministry,) as Pastor of said Society. 2d. The Evangelical Congregational Society do agree to unite and form a union with First Congregational Society by becoming an integral part of said Society, according to law, and to receive the Rev. Mr. Adams as Pastor, if he can be obtained. 3d. Nothing herein contained to be binding until legal action shall be had on the same in a legal form by the said Parishes or Societies. 4th. The ladies of both Parishes can signify their willingness for the above union by subscribing their names in the right hand column."

This also has been denounced as full of intrigue and deception in its design — but it can be seen to be merely a measure to discover the feelings of the people in respect to Mr. Adams, in order to know whether it would be best to make any further movement in reference to his settlement.

It has been stated — and the statement has had a considerable currency in the neighboring towns — that there was an agreement or understanding, before Mr. Adams' settlement, that he was to exchange with clergymen with whom he has not exchanged. To meet this statement I give the following certificate of Mr. Adams:

"The undersigned, having been requested to state whether there was any agreement or understanding between himself and any person or persons, previous to his settlement in the ministry in this place in respect to his making ministerial exchanges with any particular clergymen or classes of clergymen, beyond the usual circle of his exchanges, would hereby certify, that no such agreement or understanding was ever entered into with any others or thought of by himself. Furthermore, he would state, that no individual belonging to this place has, either before or since his settlement, ever asked or expressed to him the slightest wish, that he would turn aside from his previous practices in respect to this matter.

HENRY ADAMS.

*Berlin, January 14, 1848."*

It will be noticed, that when the First Parish sent the communication in reference to the question, "whether the churches can be permitted to commune together," the Evangelical Society voted in answer, "that the Society could not act in relation to this matter as it was one confined to the action of the Church." In reference to this, however, it may be said that the Pastor has on communion days always given such an invitation as this, — "Members of other churches in regular standing who are the sincere disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ, are invited to sit at the Lord's table with us to-day." At the time of the first communion after his Installation, he stated that it would be necessary for every one to determine his own standing and decide for himself whether he was a sincere follower of Christ.

Accordingly members of no church have been excluded, who have not excluded themselves. No professor of religion has ever been told by any other professor of religion that he must not commune, and it is a pleasure to all true Christians to meet any other true Christians of any name whatever at the communion table.

No measures have ever been taken for a formal union of the two churches and we see not how this can be done in any different way from that by which the two Societies were united, viz: by individuals of the one church conforming to the rules of the other and becoming members as individuals. This has been resorted to in some instances and we think that this is the most natural method.

This book should be returned to  
the Library on or before the last date  
stamped below.

A fine of five cents a day is incurred  
by retaining it beyond the specified  
time.

Please return promptly.

MAR 28 '56 H

MAY 30 '57 H

US 13159.10.10  
A transcript of the records of the  
Widener Library 004054069



3 2044 086 358 702